IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Giacomo Ezio MAZZER

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2002 0335A

7.6. 2.9-02

Filed March 8, 2002

PROTECTIVE SHEATH FOR FLEXIBLE **TUBES** [Corresponding to PCT/IT01/00433 Filed August 6, 2001]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of [X] the reference listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of the reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

> within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

> before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) [] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or
- (2) [] the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 2. It is hereby certified
 - a. [] that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
 - b. [] that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
- 3. [] Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
- 4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

JC19 Rec'a PCT/PTO 08 MAR 2002

- a. [] a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
- b. [X] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Giacomo Ezio MAZZER

Michael P. Davis

Registration No. 25,134 Attorney for Applicant

MRD/aeh

Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 March 8, 2002

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)				ATTY DOCKE 2002_033			SERIAL NEW	L NO.	1()/(70	686
				APPLICANT Giacomo E	Ezio MAZZER		<u></u>					
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.